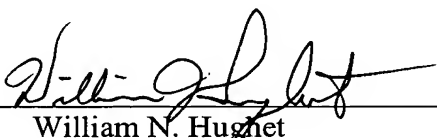


REMARKS

By the present Preliminary Amendment, multiple dependencies in the claims have been eliminated, and minor amendments have been made to conform the claims to U.S. practice . Entry of the Preliminary Amendment and favorable consideration on the merits are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions concerning the subject application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

By: 
William N. Hugnet
Registration No. 44,481

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620

Date: December 4, 2003